

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

AID-05 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 AF-06 EUR-12 EA-06 OES-03

FEA-01 OMB-01 /104 W

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R 100505Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0535

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAKRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DOHA 0675

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SENATOR J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT), PFOR, QA, US, XF

SUBJ: SENATOR FULBRIGHT'S VISIT TO QATAR

REF: STATE 127446 AND 125229

1. SUMMARY: DURING VISIT TO QATAR, SENATOR FULBRIGHT WAS TOLD BY AMIR AND OTHER OFFICIALS THAT IF US BRINGS ABOUT MID EAST SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO ARABS, ALL US PROBLEMS IN AREA, FROM SECURITY TO OIL PRICES, WILL BE EASILY SOLVED. SENATOR EXPRESSED VIEW THAT PRESIDENT FORD DISPOSED TO STRIVE FOR SUCH SOLUTION, AND THAT ARAB MODERATES CAN HELP HIM BY CONTINUING TO EMPHASIZE THE POSITIVE IN THEIR POSITIONS. ON GULF AFFAIRS, CONFIDENTIAL

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AMIR NOTED NECESSITY OF BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN SAKSIS AND

IRANIANS, BUT AVOIDED GIVING CLEAR-CUT ANSWER TO SENATOR'S QUERIES ON POTENTIAL THREAT OF IRAN. SENATOR WELL RECEIVED AND HIS VISIT RAISED HOPES THAT US WILL MOVE TO BRING A JUST PEACE TO AREA. END SUMMARY.

2. FORMER SENATOR J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT VISITED QATAR JUNE 8-9. HE MET WITH AMIR, FOREIGN MINISTER, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM, AND HAD INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AT SOCIAL FUNCTIONS WITH A NUMBER OF SENIOR GOQ OFFICIALS. THE SENATOR WAS WARMLY RECEIVED AS ELDER STATESMAN AND FRIEND OF ARABS. ARAB LEAGUE SPONSORSHIP OF VISIT NEVER IN EVIDENCE HERE. GOQ ADVISORY COUNCIL WAS OFFICIAL HOST, AND EMBASSY IN COOPERATION WITH COUNCIL AND AMIR'S OFFICE SET UP PROGRAM AND ARRANGEMENTS. GOQ FOOTED ALL BILLS, INCLUDING CHARTER FLIGHT TO NEXT STOP, BAGHDAD.

3. DURING JUNE 9 CONVERSATION WITH AMIR, SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL THANI, SENATOR ASKED KHALIFA FOR HIS IMPRESSIONS OF RESULTS OF FORD-SADAT SUMMIT. KHALIFA RESPONDED THAT ALTHOUGH "RESULTS WERE GOOD HE HAD HOPED FOR BETTER". (AMIR WAS BRIEFED ON SUMMIT ON JUNE 8 BY GOE'S ASHRAF MARWAN.) KHALIFA CONTINUED THAT HE HOPED THAT REASSESSMENT OF US MID EAST POLICY WOULD HAVE POSITIVE OUTCOME SINCE, AT PRESENT, IT APPEARED TO HIM THAT ONLY US AND ISRAEL DID NOT UNDERSTAND JUSTICE OF ARAB CAUSE. AMIR MADE POINT, WHICH HE REPEATED THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION, THAT IF US USED ITS INFLUENCE TO PRODUCE JUST MID EAST SETTLEMENT, IT WOULD FIND THAT ALL ITS PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA, RANGING FROM REGIONAL SECURITY TO PRICE OF OIL, WOULD BE EASILY SOLVED.

4. REPEATING THEME THAT HE USED IN ALL HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH GOQ OFFICIALS, SENATOR FULBRIGHT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT PRESIDENT FORD WOULD TAKE THE POSITIVE ACTION NECESSARY IN USING US INFLUENCE TO CATALYZE A MID EAST SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO THE ARABS. SENATOR STATED THAT HE THOUGHT PRESIDENT WOULD DO THIS DESPITE PRESSURES FROM ISRAEL AND ITS SUPPORTERS IN THE US. FULBRIGHT STRESSED THAT PRESIDENT WOULD NEED ALL THE HELP HE COULD GET, AND IN THIS CONTEXT HE MENTIONED RECENT MODERATE STATEMENTS FROM PRESIDENT SADAT AND KINGS HUSSEIN AND KHALID AS EXAMPLES OF WHAT ARAB LEADERS CAN DO TO SOLIDIFY PRESIDENT'S DISPOSITION TO ACT FAIRLY ON THE MID EAST.
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5. SENATOR AND AMIR THEN DISCUSSED NEED FOR ARABS TO MAKE CONCERTED EFFORT TO IMPROVE THEIR IMAGE IN US. AMIR ACKNOWLEDGED ARABS HAD FALLEN SHORT IN PAST, BUT NOW THERE WAS COORDINATED EFFORT TO RECTIFY SITUATION. SENATOR REMARKED THAT INTENSIVE PACE OF DEVELOPMENT HE HAD SEEN ON THIS TRIP SHOULD BE WIDELY PUBLICIZED, AND WOULD HAVE VERY FAVORABLE PRO-ARAB IMPACT ON AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION. IN THIS CONNECTION, AMIR REITERATED

FAMILIAR THEME THAT ALTHOUGH GOQ WANTED US FIRMS TO PARTICIPATE IN ITS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND HE AWARE OF INTENSIVE EMBASSY EFFORTS ON MATTER, AMERICAN COMPANIES WERE SLOW TO SEEK OUT OPPORTUNITIES WHICH WERE BEING SNAPPED UP BY FRENCH, JAPANESE AND BRITISH.

6. SENATOR FULBRIGHT THEN ASKED AMIR FOR HIS VIEWS ON CURRENT SITUATION IN GULF WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO ARMS RACE IN REGION, IRANIAN MILITARY BUILDUP, AND US ROLE IN AREA SECURITY. AMIR REPLIED THAT NEWLY INDEPENDENT LOWER GULF STATES SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FORESWEAR ACQUISITION OF ARMS. HE NOTED THAT IT WAS IMPERATIVE FOR THE SMALL GULF STATES TO IMPROVE THEIR RELATIONS WITH BOTH SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN, SINCE IT WAS IN MUTUAL INTEREST OF ALL LITTORAL STATES TO ASSURE REGIONAL SECURITY. HE STATED THAT THERE SHOULD BE "BALANCE" OF FORCES IN REGION TO ASSURE STABILITY. SENATOR PRESSED QUESTION "BALANCE BETWEEN WHOM?", AND AMIR REPLIED "BETWEEN SAUDIS AND IRANIANS". SENATOR THEN ASKED WHETHER AMIR SAW IRAN AS THREATENING ELEMENT, SINCE IT FAR AHEAD OF SAUDI ARABIA IN POPULATION AND MILITARY POWER. SENATOR SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THERE WERE 30 MILLION IRANIANS AND, AT MOST, 5 OR 6 MILLION SAUDIS. AMIR DISPUTED THESE FIGURES, SAYING HE BELIEVED POPULATION OF SAUDI ARABIA 12 MILLION AND IRAN 24 MILLION. HE NOTED THAT IRAN HAD BEEN BUILDING UP OVER LONG PERIOD, BUT THAT SAUDIS HAD NOT BEGUN THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT UNTIL KING FAISAL TOOK POWER A SHORT TEN YEARS AGO. HE ASSERTED, HOWEVER, THAT SAUDIS MOVING FAST. (COMMENT: AMIR WAS VISIBLY UNCOMFORTABLE DURING SENATOR'S PERSISTENT BUT UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO PIN HIM DOWN ON HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD IRAN. MINISTER OF FINANCE AND OIL, AMIR'S SON, WAS SIMILARLY DISCOMFITED AND EVASIVE ON SUBJECT DURING SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION.)

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

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AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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7. RE US SECURITY ROLE IN AREA, AMIR REITERATED THAT USG'S FIRST TASK WAS TO SETTLE ARAB-ISRAEL CRISIS. BEYOND THAT, HE SAID, US AS GREAT POWER MUST ITSELF DETERMINE ROLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OWN INTERESTS. SENATOR ASKED AMIR FOR HIS VIEW WHETHER US NAVAL PRESENCE IN BAHRAIN WAS USEFUL OR AN IRRITANT. AMIR DODGED AND REPEATED THAT IF US COULD SETTLE MID EAST CRISIS, ITS POSITION IN REGION WOULD BE ASSURED AND UNQUESTIONED.

8. REMAINDER OF CONVERSATION TOUCHED ON VARIETY OF SUBJECTS. SENATOR DESCRIBED US RECESSION AND RESULTING UNEMPLOYMENT, AND ATTRIBUTED SOME OF US ECONOMIC PROBLEMS TO GREATLY INCREASED PETROLEUM COSTS. AMIR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT OIL PRICE RISE WAS CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO OUR ECONOMIC WOE. HE SUGGESTED THAT WE COULD CUT OUR DEFICITS BY CEASING AID TO ISRAEL, BUT RETURNED TO HIS GENERAL THEME THAT A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT WOULD IMPACT CONFIDENTIAL

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FAVORABLY ON US ECONOMY. AMIR SAID QUALIFIED TECHNICIANS AMONG UNEMPLOYED WOULD BE WELCOME IN QATAR. WHEN SENATOR DESCRIBED HIS FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS OF SHAYKH ZAYID AND ABU DHABI GREENERY, AMIR REMARKED THAT FIRST PRIORITY WAS TO ESTABLISH SOUND ECONOMY AND THEN INDULGE IN FRILLS. DISCUSSION CONCLUDED WITH AMIR'S EXPRESSION OF THANKS FOR FULBRIGHT VISIT, AND OF HIS AND ARABS' APPRECIATION OF CONSISTENT AND JUST STAND WHICH SENATOR HAD TAKEN ON MID EAST PROBLEM.

9. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AUDIENCE WITH AMIR, SENATOR MET WITH GOQ FOREIGN MINISTER, SHAYKH SUHAYM BIN HAMAD AL THANI. SUHAYM ECHOED AMIR'S THEME THAT US POSITION IN AREA, AS WELL AS MIDDLE EAST PEACE, DEPENDED ON OUR SUCCESS IN CATALYZING JUST MID EAST SETTLEMENT. SENATOR RESPONDED THAT HE BELIEVED PRESIDENT FORD DISPOSED TO DO THE RIGHT THING. SENATOR SAID USG APPRECIATED URGENCY OF PROBLEM, BUT HE COUNSELED THAT ARABS KEEP THEIR COOL IN COMING MONTHS, WHICH SHOULD BE DECISIVE. IN MEANTIME,

SENATOR ADVISED THAT ARABS CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE THE POSITIVE
IN THEIR POSITION.

10. COMMENT: SENATOR FULBRIGHT STRESSED IN ALL HIS CONTACTS
HERE HIS BELIEF THAT PRESIDENT FORD IS DISPOSED TO DO RIGHT BY
THE ARABS IN IMPLEMENTING A US MID EAST POLICY THAT WILL BRING
A JUST SETTLEMENT. HIS STATURE AS US ELDER STATESMAN AND FRIEND
OF ARABS SERVED TO MAKE HIS VIEWS HEARD, ACCEPTED AND APPRECIATED.
HE TOOK CARE, HOWEVER, TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT HE WAS A PRIVATE
CITIZEN ARTICULATING HIS OWN VIEWS. HIS VISIT HAS ADDED TO
HOPES HERE THAT USG APPROACHING DECISION THAT WILL BRING BOTH
SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO ARABS AND RESULTING MILLENNIUM IN
US-ARAB RELATIONS.
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